



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

June 1, 2016

MEMO TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Blythe C. Robinson
Town Manager
RE: Request for Approval - Inter-Municipal Agreements

State law allows communities to enter into agreements to provide services or activities to one another, otherwise known as inter-municipal agreements (IMA) under G.L. c 40, §4A. Regardless of the department or board that will manage such services, the agreements must be executed by the Board of Selectmen for each community. The Town has had several of these agreements over the years, the most recent being:

- 911 Dispatch for Hopedale
- Conservation Agent Services from Ashland
- Public Health Nursing services for Blackstone

The purpose of this memo is to give you the background about my request that you approve and execute the three enclosed Agreements, one with Northbridge for Conservation Agent Services, a renewal of the agreement with Blackstone for Nursing Services, and the third is a new agreement with Bellingham for Nursing Services.

Conservation Agent - Northbridge

Since 2011, we have purchased Conservation Agent services from the Town of Ashland. Recently their Agent resigned, and Ashland determined that it could no longer provide these services to Upton. We had purchased 10 hours/week and shared their full-time agent at a cost of \$41/hour or \$21,402 per year.

In speaking to other area Town Managers I learned that Northbridge does not have an agent and wanted to hire one. We agreed that hiring one together was a good option, as it meant we could offer candidates more hours of work together rather than separately. Thus I am proposing that we hire an agent for 19 hours/week, eight (8) hours to be used by Northbridge and not more than 11 hours/week for Upton. At this level the position will not be eligible for benefits; the additional costs are Medicare and workers compensation. The breakdown by town is as follows:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
James A. Brochu, Chairman
Robert J. Fleming
Gary Daugherty

TOWN MANAGER
Blythe C. Robinson
One Main Street • Suite 1 • Upton, MA 01568
T: 508.529.6901 • F: 508.529.1010

Upton	11 hrs/week	\$ 14,871.78
Northbridge`	8 hrs/week	10,815.84

The Town of Upton would save about \$6,500 per year in this agreement. It is proposed that this agreement be dated for the first of June, and services to Northbridge would start on June 13th when the Agent, Mr. David Pickart begins his duties. The Northbridge Board of Selectmen have already executed the agreement and it is attached.

Public Health Nurse – Blackstone

We have had an agreement with Blackstone to provide them this service since January, 2015 and it is set to expire on June 30th. I have negotiated a successor agreement with them to continue the service for a two-year period, with two one year renewals. We provide them with up to six hours/week of services, and in FY 16/17 they will pay us a rate of \$52.32 per hour. The wages and corresponding revenue projected for FY 16/17 show that Upton will receive \$6,230 towards the benefit costs of this position:

- Wages: \$ 10,157.08
- Revenue: 16,387.07

Public Health Nurse – Bellingham

The Town has had a Public Health Nurse for a number of years (Trish Parent), who has worked a schedule of 20 hours/week, and as such is eligible for benefits. In 2015 we began providing this service to the Town of Blackstone for four hours/week to fill a need they have, and then expanded it to up to six hours/week. This has been beneficial to Upton because Ms. Parent would like to work more hours, but not for multiple employers, and it has enabled us to keep her employed by us. A further benefit for Upton is that in crafting that agreement we billed Blackstone for a portion of all of the cost of her position (health insurance, pension, workers comp), enabling Upton to recoup some of the benefit expenses we have, thereby reducing the overall cost to Upton taxpayers. We propose to do the same thing with this Agreement with the Town of Bellingham. The wages and corresponding revenue projected for FY 16/17 show that Upton will receive \$3,874 towards the benefit costs of this position:

- Wages: \$ 6,771.00
- Revenue: 10,645.00

The Bellingham Board of Selectmen approved the enclosed Agreement at their meeting on May 16th, and is ready to begin working together as soon as it is approved by the Town of Upton.

I look forward to reviewing these agreements and any questions you have at our meeting on Tuesday, June 7th.

Cc: Conservation Commission
Board of Health